



A SNAPSHOT OF GEORGIA

CHILDREN'S INTERVENTION SERVICES



Overview

The Children's Intervention Service (CIS) program offers coverage for restorative and rehabilitative services to eligible members in non-institutional settings, including their home, therapist's office, child care or other community setting. CIS services must be determined to be medically necessary, and be recommended and documented as appropriate intervention by a physician.

Why is the program important?

The intent of the program is for the maximum reduction of a physical disability or developmental delay and restoration of the member to the best possible functional level in order to enhance the child's development.

What has the Georgia Department of Community Health done to enhance Children's Intervention Services systems?

In October 2006 DCH launched a system enhancement, allowing providers to attach electronic documentation directly to pending Prior Authorizations (PA). This enhancement gives the provider greater control in assuring that all documentation is associated with the review for Medical Necessity. The enhancement yields immediate verification back to the provider that the documentation was successfully uploaded. DCH also established a toll-free fax line for provider use (1-800-716-5358), created a CIS inquiry e-mail address for the convenience of providers to submit questions concerning CIS PAs and set the goal for peer review turnaround time for less than 30 days.

Has the Children's Intervention Services program changed?

DCH strives to ensure the right care is provided to the right children at the right time. A child's need for therapy can change over time, and by standardizing the Prior Authorization (PA) review process and assuring medical necessity, DCH can be more certain that the program meets each individual child's medical needs. Beginning September 1, 2006, PA was required for units over eight per member per month for therapy in the same specialty. These units include the evaluation visit. PA is based on medical necessity and is effective for up to 90 days.

SERVICES

- Audiology
- Nursing
- Nutrition provided by licensed dietitians
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Counseling provided by licensed clinical social workers
- Speech-language pathology

ELIGIBILITY

Medicaid-eligible members from birth to 21-years old with physical disabilities or with a developmental delay, who have been recommended for rehabilitative or restorative intervention services by a physician and who are included in one of the following categories, may receive CIS:

- Children who have a written service plan established by a physician
- Infants and toddlers who are eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Part C), meet eligibility for the Early Intervention Program (Babies Can't Wait) and have an authorized Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed by the multi-disciplinary team.

PROVIDER ENROLLMENT

- FY 2003 — 2,315 CIS providers
- FY 2004 — 2,457 CIS providers
- FY 2005 — 2,778 CIS providers